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Method and device for downloading settings for an application

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METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DOWNLOADING SETTINGS FOR AN APPLICATION

Field of the invention

5 The present invention relates to a method for downloading settings for an application into a device e.g. facilitating a request for subscription to a service and downloading the required settings into the device. The invention also relates to such a device. The device is prepared by providing customised application specific menus, which are self-instructing and user friendly. The menus guide a user to
10 select the required keystrokes, the number of which is as low as possible.

State of the art

 There exists today a lot of services that may be exploited with a e.g. mobile telephone. Before the service may be used the correct settings must be introduced
15 into the telephone. One of the strongest barriers for consumers to start using new services is to actually take the first step. Many consumers are discouraged by the fact that they have to do a lot of things on their own before they can start using the service, and of those who actually try to set up their products in order to try a certain service, many never succeed.

20 There are many ways for consumers to become aware of new services: operators and manufacturers advertising, user manuals, direct mail from the operator, editorial text in various mass media channels, etc. When it comes to subscribing, it is a matter of getting in contact with the operator or service provider, e.g. by phone, by visiting a shop catering for the service provider's offerings, or
25 through the service provider's web page. In many cases, it also involves receiving a confirmation by mail, signing this, and returning it to the service provider.

 Today, consumers are best referred to either the web or WAP site of their operator or service provider, or the web site of the manufacturer, to get help with settings they need. At worst, the consumers have to go to the user manuals from the
30 manufacturer or operator for help, or call the customer service of the operator/manufacturer.

 Only the most motivated few are prepared to go through the process from scratch. Just looking at all the information in the user manual is discouraging for many.

35 When it comes to the OTA (Over The Air) services offered from operators, service providers and manufacturers, there are also some problems. First of all, it is a matter of knowing about the possibility of OTA in the first place. Second, you need to know where to go, and third, you need to know the user name and password that your service provider has provided you with. When you try to enter the service

provider's site, this immediately becomes an issue, because if you do not have them, you will not get in. When you enter the manufacturer's site, you still need to enter this information before the OTA is sent. Otherwise, you still do not get access to the service.

5 In many cases, the user names and passwords are sent by mail to the subscribers when they first become subscribers, and it is not far-fetched to assume that many will have forgotten where they keep the documents containing this information. Also, it is not far-fetched to believe that many will keep these documents at home, while they would typically try to set up their services using
10 their computer at work. This is a trivial but powerful barrier.

Summary of the invention

The present invention solves the above mentioned problems by preparing the portable device, e.g. a mobile telephone, in advance. Menus are built into the device
15 when customising the device for applications existing on the relevant market. In this way, the required information is readily at hand in the device and the user is guided through the menus and need only perform some simple keystrokes.

According to one aspect, the invention provides a method for downloading settings for an application into a device, comprising the steps of:
20 programming the device in dependence of at least one predetermined application, such that the device is adapted to display a menu in which a user may navigate, the menu being associated with said application and guiding the user; actuating the device by means of a keystroke while in said menu causing the device to contact a server and download the settings for the application.

25 Preferably, the device contacts the server over the air by calling a telephone number loaded into the device and associated with said application, and a session is established with the server, wherein questions and answers are presented in further menus in the device.

30 In one embodiment, information is exchanged between the device and the server by means of one or more messages in a standardised format. The standardised format is suitably SMS.

Preferably, the device is programmed in dependence of several predetermined
35 applications, some applications originating from different service providers, each having a different server, such that the correct server associated with the respective application is contacted.

The device may be preset to a specific service provider by selecting a service

provider from a list in a menu, and/or the device is preset to a specific service provider by inserting a smart card (SIM) containing information about possible service providers and services.

- 5 According to another aspect, the invention provides a device capable of downloading settings for an application, wherein:
 the device is programmed in dependence of at least one predetermined application, such that the device is adapted to display a menu in which a user may navigate, the menu being associated with said application and guiding the user;
 10 and wherein the device is adapted to be actuated by means of a keystroke while in said menu causing the device to contact a server and download the settings for the application.

- Preferably, the device is adapted to contact the server over the air by calling a
 15 telephone number loaded into the device and associated with said application, and the device contains further menus for presenting questions and answers communicated during a session established with the server.

- In one embodiment, the device is adapted to exchange information with the server
 20 by means of one or more messages in a standardised format. The standardised format is suitably SMS.

- Preferably, the device is programmed in dependence of several predetermined applications, some applications originating from different service providers, each
 25 having a different server, such that the correct server is associated with the respective application.

- The device may contain a list in a menu for selecting a service provider to preset the device to a specific service provider, and/or the device is adapted to receive a smart
 30 card (SIM) containing information about possible service providers to preset the device to a specific service provider.

- The device may be a portable telephone, a pager, a communicator, a smart phone or an electronic organiser.
 35

Brief description of the drawing

The invention will be described in detail below with reference to the accompanying drawing in which:

fig. 1 is a diagrammatic illustration of menus and information exchange between the device and the service provider according to the invention.

Detailed description of preferred embodiments

5 The invention will be described in connection with mobile telecommunication systems, especially a mobile telephone with which the user wishes to access a service. Other devices that can use the invention include pagers, communicators, smart phones and electronic organisers which may receive applications and settings over the air (OTA).

10 Today mobile telephones are produced specifically for a certain market with a limited number of operators, or specifically for a specific operator or service provider. The portable device itself is often customised with the operators' trademark and designs and is sometimes sold as a package together with a smart card, a SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) card, containing the mobile telephone
15 number and other information connected to the operator from which the card is purchased.

As is mentioned in the introduction, the operator and/or service provider may provide additional services, or generally contents, which the user may access by means of the telephone. However, before the telephone can be used the settings of
20 the service or contents must be inserted into the device.

The problem is solved according to the present invention by preparing the device already during the manufacturing thereof by programming the device, e.g. by means of JAVA applications, such that the device is tailored to request and handle downloading of settings in connection with the predetermined services. The
25 program can be contained in the software of the device or on a smart card, such as the SIM card or a suitable combination thereof.

The service provider may be selected from a list in a menu, and/or the device is preset to a specific service provider by inserting a smart card (SIM) containing information about possible service providers and services.

30 In this way the device will contain a function that lets the user, from the phone's menu system, request an application for subscription to the relevant service. This could be from a separate menu in the phone, catering for all relevant services, e.g. a list to choose from. It could also be a specific menu associated with a specific service. E.g., if the user is in the MMS (Multimedia Message Service) menu, he
35 could select a function called something like "Subscribe to the MMS service" or simply "Get MMS".

When the user selects this function, the phone automatically sends a request, suitably as an SMS (Short Message Service) message. However, all means and formats of sending information are within the scope of the invention including for

instance gprs (General Packet Radio Service) or other systems supporting transmission of data and/or data packets. The message is sent to the operator or service provider as a request for the service.

5 The request is received by a server connected to the operator network system. The server collects the requested data, based on the services the user subscribes to and sends an application back to the mobile device. The format of the application can be an SMS or multiple SMS'es, since this is supported by all subscriptions and all terminals from the beginning. It should contain basic information about the service, such as cost, and the options open to the user.

10 The user selects the appropriate option and with support from the phones security functions, such as personal codes like a PIN, he confirms the subscriptions. The interface for this may be a WAP page that the user is automatically taken to, provided that the WAP service is active in the phone or another menu.

15 When the subscription is confirmed, the service provider sends an OTA message with the appropriate settings.

The user accepts the settings and is ready to start using the service with one final keystroke.

Fig. 1 illustrates an embodiment of the invention. Menus displayed on the mobile telephone are shown to the left, and messages exchanged between the mobile device and the server over the air (OTA) are shown to the right.

In step one the user is in the services menu containing a number of possible services, such as SMS, MMS and mobile Internet, etc. By selecting the first alternative, e.g. by pressing the key 2, the MMS menu of step 2 is displayed.

We assume that the user wants to install the MMS service. By pressing key 1 25 the mobile starts performing the required operations. Thus, a connection is established with a server by calling the server's telephone number, which is preloaded in the mobile or the SIM card. A suitable SMS is selected from the phone's memory containing the request for the MMS service and the user identity. The server checks the authenticity of the request. If the request is approved, the 30 server sends back an SMS to the mobile with the required settings for the service.

When this is happening, the mobile display can show the text "Getting MMS" or similar. When this is done, the menu may be as shown in step 3, i.e. "Settings downloaded" together with a number of alternatives. The user may now install the service, view the settings or cancel the procedure.

35 If "1. Install" is selected, the service is installed in the telephone and the display shows the text "Done" as shown in step 4.

The user may also choose to view the settings by pressing the key 2. In this case the settings are shown with a number of options as shown in step 5. The user may now select or deselect options by pressing the associated number key. When

satisfied, the changed settings are submitted by pressing the key 5. A new SMS with changed options for the service is now sent automatically to the server. The server again checks the authenticity and, if OK, sends back an SMS with the new settings for the service.

- 5 When the new settings are downloaded the menu will be again as shown in step 3.

The invention gives operators and service providers a new channel to sell subscriptions to services and minimises the effort from both users and operators.

- 10 A person skilled in the art will realise that it is possible to vary the appearance of the menus, the keys used to select operations, and the form of messages sent between the mobile and the service without departing from the scope of the invention. The invention is only limited by the claims below.

CLAIMS

1. A method for downloading settings for an application into a device,
5 **characterised** by the steps of:
 programming the device in dependence of at least one predetermined
 application, such that the device is adapted to display a menu in which a user
 may navigate, the menu being associated with said application and guiding the
 user;
10 actuating the device by means of a keystroke while in said menu causing the
 device to contact a server and download the settings for the application.
2. A method according to claim 1, **characterised** in that the device contacts the
15 server over the air by calling a telephone number loaded into the device and
 associated with said application.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, **characterised** in that a session is
 established with the server, wherein questions and answers are presented in
 further menus in the device.
20
4. A method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, **characterised** in that information is
 exchanged between the device and the server by means of one or more messages
 in a standardised format.
- 25 5. A method according to claim 4, **characterised** in that the standardised format is
 SMS.
6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterised** in that
 the device is programmed in dependence of several predetermined applications,
30 some applications originating from different service providers, each having a
 different server, such that the correct server associated with the respective
 application is contacted.
7. A method according to claim 5, **characterised** in that the device is preset to a
35 specific service provider by selecting a service provider from a list in a menu.
8. A method according to claim 5, **characterised** in that the device is preset to a
 specific service provider by inserting a smart card (SIM) containing information
 about possible service providers and services.

9. A device capable of downloading settings for an application **characterised** in that:
the device is programmed in dependence of at least one predetermined
5 application, such that the device is adapted to display a menu in which a user may navigate, the menu being associated with said application and guiding the user;
wherein the device is adapted to be actuated by means of a keystroke while in said menu causing the device to contact a server and download the settings for
10 the application.
10. A device according to claim 9, **characterised** in that the device is adapted to contact the server over the air by calling a telephone number loaded into the device and associated with said application.
15
11. A device according to claim 9 or 10, **characterised** in that the device contain further menus for presenting questions and answers communicated during a session established with the server.
- 20 12. A device according to claim 9, 10 or 11, **characterised** in that the device is adapted to exchange information with the server by means of one or more messages in a standardised format.
- 25 13. A device according to claim 12, **characterised** in that the standardised format is SMS.
- 30 14. A device according to any one of claims 9 to 13, **characterised** in that the device is programmed in dependence of several predetermined applications, some applications originating from different service providers, each having a different server, such that the correct server is associated with the respective application.
- 35 15. A device according to claim 14, **characterised** in that the device contains a list in a menu for selecting a service provider to preset the device to a specific service provider.
16. A device according to claim 14, **characterised** in that the device is adapted to receive a smart card (SIM) containing information about possible service providers to preset the device to a specific service provider.

17. A device according to any one of claims 9 to 16, **characterised in that the device is a portable telephone, a pager, a communicator, a smart phone or an electronic organiser.**

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method for downloading settings for an application into a device e.g. facilitating a request for subscription to a service. The invention also relates to such a device. The device is programmed in dependence of at least one
5 predetermined application, such that the device is adapted to display a menu in which a user may navigate, the menu being associated with said application and guiding the user. The device is actuated by means of a keystroke while in said menu causing the device to contact a server and download the settings for the application. Preferably, the device contacts the server over the air by calling a telephone number
10 loaded into the device and associated with said application, and a session is established with the server, wherein questions and answers are presented in further menus in the device. Thus, the device is prepared by providing customised application specific menus, which are self-instructing and user friendly. The menus guide a user to select the required keystrokes, the number of which is as low as
15 possible.

MENUS

Services

1. SMS
2. MMS
3. Mobile Internet
4. -----

[Select 2]

MMS

1. Get MMS
2. Change settings
3. Unsubscribe

[Select 1]

(Getting MMS)

Settings
downloaded

1. Install
2. View settings
3. Cancel

[Select 1]

Done

[Select 2]

Settings

1. ☐ Option 1
2. ☐ Option 2
3. ☐ Option 3
4. ☒ Option 4
5. Submit

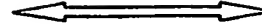
[Select 5]

(Back to Settings downloaded)

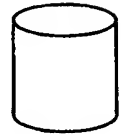
MOBILE



OTA



SERVER



SMS with request
for service and
user ID
Authenticity
checked by server



SMS with settings
for service



SMS with changed
options for service
Authenticity
checked by server



SMS with settings
for service

FIG 1

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